

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 4 and 5 and add new claims 8-14 as follows:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Original): An anti-microbial, curable silicone rubber composition comprising in at least a portion of the exposed surface of said composition an organic matrix containing homogeneously dispersed particles of metallic silver having a particle size in the range of 1 to 50 nm (silver nanoparticles) in an amount providing on the surface of said composition an anti-microbially effective but less than cytotoxic silver concentration.

Claim 2 (Original): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 1, characterized by comprising said silver nanoparticles in an amount providing a silver concentration of from more than 1 nmol/l to less than 1 µmol/l on at least a portion of the surface of said composition.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises said silver nanoparticles in an amount of 1 to 2000 ppm, ~~preferably 5 to 1 000 ppm and more preferably 10 to 250 ppm.~~

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 3, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 2 to 20 nm ~~preferably 5 to 10 nm.~~

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 1, characterized in that said ~~fluid~~ organic matrix comprises an organic fluid wherein said silver nanoparticles are dispersed.

Claim 6 (Original): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 5, characterized in that said viscous organic fluid comprises an aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon, a mineral oil, petrolatum, glycerol, a fatty alcohol, polypropylene glycol, an animal and/or vegetable oil or fat, or a silicone oil.

Claim 7 (Original): A method for manufacturing a curable, anti-microbial silicone rubber

composition comprising the steps of:

- providing a curable silicone rubber composition in a configuration ready for mixing
- providing a liquid organic matrix comprising metallic silver having a particle size in the range of 1 to 50 nm
- mixing said liquid organic matrix into said silicone rubber composition
- optionally curing the mixture of said composition with said organic matrix

Claim 8 (New): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 3, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 5 to 10 nm.

Claim 9 (New): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises said silver nanoparticles in an amount of 5 to 1000 ppm.

Claim 10 (New): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 9, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 2 to 20 nm.

Claim 11 (New): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 9, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 5 to 10 nm.

Claim 12 (New): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises said silver nanoparticles in an amount of 10 to 250 ppm.

Claim 13 (New): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 12, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 2 to 20 nm.

Claim 14 (New): The silicone rubber composition according to claim 12, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 5 to 10 nm.